

FISCAL NOTE

HB 1308 - SB 1888

March 1, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Designates the following as natural-scientific areas:
 - Sequatchie Cave: an area of eight acres where Owen Spring Branch flows from the mouth of the cave in Marion County; and
 - Langford Branch: an area of 23 acres in Lewis County.
2. Increases the size of the following natural-scientific areas as follows:
 - Fall Creek Falls State Park - Class II Natural-Scientific Area, 4,990 acres, Van-Buren and Bledsoe Counties.
 - Couchville Cedar Glade - Class II Natural-Scientific Area, 7 acres, Davidson County.
 - North Chickamauga Creek Gorge - Class II Natural-Scientific Area, 152 acres, Hamilton County.
 - Flat Rock Cedar Glades and Barrens - Class II Natural Scientific Area, 270 acres, Rutherford County.
3. Adds civil penalties up to \$10,000 per day for the following:
 - Damage or vandalism to any natural area;
 - Removal of any rare, threatened, or endangered species;
 - Any other violation of the promulgated rules pertaining to natural areas.
4. Allows the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation to institute proceedings for assessment in chancery court where all or part of the violation occurred. The commissioner may seek injunctive relief or any other relief available in law or equity.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenues - Not Significant

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Estimate assumes:

- Revenues from the collection of penalties from violations of this act are not estimated to be significant.
- Any increase in expenditures related to increasing the amount of properties administered under the provisions of this bill will be not significant and can be accomplished within existing resources.

According to the Department of Environment and Conservation, the owner or managing agency for all six properties covered by the bill will willingly and voluntarily cooperate in the designation and will assist with management and protection.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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